New scheme for voluntary retirement in SAIL

120. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Steel Authority of India Limited has evolved a new scheme for voluntary retirement for its serving employees;

(b) if so, the salient features of the scheme; and

(c) how it differs from the VRSs offered by other public Sector undertakings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

The Salient features of the Scheme are as follows:— VR Benefit - 35 days salary for every completed year of service and 25 days for every balance year. This amount is to be paid in lumpsum. Eligibility - 10 years of service or above 40 years of age.

(c) The VR Scheme 2001 has been prepared based on guidelines circulated in this regard by Department of Public Enterprises, which are applicable to all Public Sector Companies.

Sharp decline in the export of Steel

121. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sharp decline has been registered in the export of steel as compared to the last year;

(b) if so, the level of the decline;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken for arresting such decline?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) The exports of saleable

steel during April-June 2001 have been estimated at 7.83 lakh tonnes against 7.2S lakh tonnes in the corresponding period last year registering an increase of 8 per cent.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Tribals living below poverty level

†122. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than 70 per cent of tribals are living below the poverty level in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the .details of Centrally sponsored and State level schemes for the upliftment of living standards of these tribals;

(d) the financial aid provided by government to each State, for this purpose during last three years, scheme-wise; and

(e) the achievements made under the same, so far, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) and (b) No, Sir. As per the latest estimates of Planning Commission 51.94 per cent of tribal population in rural and 41.14 per cent of tribal population in urban areas are living below poverty line.

(c) In order to achieve the objective of socio-economic development of Scheduled Tribes, Government of India has adopted a strategy known as Tribal Sub Plan (TSP). Under this strategy various schemes of economic development under the sectors of Agriculture, Minor Irrigation, Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, Horticulture, Rural Development, Small Scale Industries and Forestry etc. under Centre/state Sector are being implemented for the upliftment of tribal people living below poverty line. Ministry of Tribal Affairs provides Special Central Assistance to the TSP States/ UTs as an additive to their own outlays to fill the gap.

(d) and (e) A statement showing funds released under Special

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.